

EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITY ACT GRANTEES

Twenty-six Early Learning Opportunity Act (ELOA) grants have been awarded for FY 2001. Listed below is summary information including the grantee and project title/description for each of the ELOA grants. Communities in 18 States, including one Tribe and one Alaskan Native Corporation, received grants ranging from \$246,380 to \$1 million. Most of the grantees will implement strategies to improve early learning through parent education, provider training and professional development, and better linkages among service providers within local communities. Several grantees propose to establish better connections between health and child care programs. Others plan to expand the availability of care for special populations including infants and toddlers, children with special needs, and families that require non-standard hour care.

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Note: All grants are for the period September 30, 2001 to February 28, 2003

Grantee	Project Title / Description
Alameda County Children and Families Commission San Leandro, CA	Alameda County Early Learning Partnership Project provides early learning activities for low-income children not in group care to increase their school readiness by providing home and caregiver visits, caregiver and parent support and training, and an intensive school-based pre-kindergarten summer camp. An evaluation will test outcomes and provide a framework for replication.
Bristol Bay Native Association Dillingham, AK	Bristol Bay Native Assn. Early Learning Opportunities Project provides activities and training to promote early learning including: assessing and recruiting child care providers in targeted communities, providing early childhood training for providers and parents, and developing a case management system for service delivery that includes local early childhood partnership teams and case managers.
Broward School Readiness Coalition, Inc. Fort Lauderdale, FL	Broward Investment in Quality Care for Kids Project will reform the county's early education system by developing a rated child care licensing system, providing training for parents and teachers, helping families access primary and preventive health care, increasing quality classroom-based services for children with special needs, and increasing the community's awareness of the importance of quality early learning.
Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska Juneau, AK	Children's Early Learning Mental Health Project Project will address the mental health and developmental problems of young children by providing specialized training to mental health consultants, establishing a coordinated system of early identification and referral, developing a statewide system for early childhood mental health services, providing training in relationship-based intervention for providers, and promoting family wellness as it affects early learning through a public awareness campaign.

Grantee	Project Title / Description
Community Connections, Inc. Bluefield, WV	Mercer County Early Learning Project Project will increase, support, expand, and better coordinate existing early learning programs through staff training, improved services to infants and children with special needs, the purchase of educational materials for providers, support to a collaborative planning and evaluation group, a database designed to facilitate intake and transition among programs, and parent education workshops that include family literacy issues.
Community Coordinated Child Care Hillside, NJ	Union County Early Learning Opportunities Project Project will develop a larger, better trained and networked early childhood workforce by improving communication among community leaders, professionals, providers, and families and developing innovative services to increase the availability and effectiveness of professional development for child care workers. The project will also support workers in assessing their training needs, provide specialized training, and offer technical assistance.
Durham's Partnership for Children Durham, NC	The Literacy and School Readiness Enhancement Pilot Project Project will build upon two successful projects, the Reading Together Library Project and the School Readiness Project. The goals are to: increase school readiness, including in the areas of language and literacy; improve successful transition to school; increase communication and knowledge of school readiness strategies among teachers and parents; increase the education level of preschool teachers; and increase parent and child care teacher involvement in children's reading and literacy activities.
Early Childhood Care and Education Council of Multnomah County Portland, OR	Multnomah County Components of Early Learning Project will increase the number of and access to programs that promote parent effectiveness, improve early childhood literacy and provide professional development for providers. It will include three basic strategies: providing parent education at local family resource centers; improving the quality of home-based child care through provider networks that offer minimum quality standards, training opportunities, and provide business support to providers; and training and mentoring of parents and providers to foster language and literacy development (Early Words).
Early Childhood Service Council Moscow, ID	Early Learning Collaborative Project Project, which consists of a coalition of 15 organizations that serve families with young children, will expand the capacity of parents and caregivers to facilitate development and early learning. An early childhood alliance will be formed to pool resources to carry-out shared activities such as service planning and program outreach. The focus will be on helping families increase their ability to facilitate early learning, promote optimal early development, and overcome barriers to services.

Grantee	Project Title / Description
<p>Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) Early Childhood Development Commission Fairbanks, AK</p>	<p>For all Families, A Community Model Project promotes access to early care and education services by increasing community awareness through the media, face-to-face presentations and parent relationship-building kits. A child care rating system will provide objective information to parents in making child care choices and support child care providers in identifying needed improvements and obtaining resources to make changes. The goal is higher quality early childhood experiences for children leading to better school readiness and improved citizenship.</p>
<p>Lenawee Intermediate School District Adrian, MI</p>	<p>Lenawee's Child Project will expand the early learning program called Parents as Teachers. Parent educators will visit parents and caregivers in their homes helping them to acquire knowledge and skills to be their child's first and best teachers. They also will provide developmental screening, referral services, and playgroup opportunities to encourage parent/child interaction. Local school districts will provide space for program activities. Services will be culturally sensitive and will include families in migrant camps and teen parents. The council will develop and implement a plan for filling gaps and eliminating service duplication in the county.</p>
<p>Southern Iowa Economic Development Association Acting As Fiscal Agent for the Mahaska-Wapello Empowerment Area Ottumwa, IA</p>	<p>Mahaska-Wapello Parents As Teachers Program Project improves access to early learning opportunities by expanding in-home parent education and support services, helping parents and caregivers increase their capacity to promote school readiness, developing linkages among early learning programs and health services, increasing early learning opportunities for children with special needs, and eliminating barriers to participation including transportation issues.</p>
<p>Mid-America Regional Council Kansas City, MO</p>	<p>Early Childhood Excellence Project Project provides training and technical assistance to 20 child care programs in curriculum development, team planning, parent literacy, and accreditation. Grants will be made to increase provider compensation. County-based collaborations will be formed to create a metro-wide child care system.</p>
<p>Midcoast Access to Child Care Nobleboro, ME</p>	<p>Enhance Quality of Early Care Project proposes to increase the availability of care for children with special needs and to create accessible, integrated and compensated professional development opportunities for providers. It will improve children's literacy skills by providing activities for families and will assist employers in exploring ways to support and expand the availability of non-traditional hours of care.</p>

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<p>Mono County Office of Education Mono, CA</p>	<p>Eastern Sierra Early Learning Collaborative Project develops a framework for programming, delivery and coordination of early literacy services and training, expands parent education and support through a parent support network, improves early identification of infants and toddlers with special needs, increases the capacity of Early Start and Head Start programs to provide full-day care, and expands local training opportunities and incentive/retention programs for providers.</p>
<p>Napa County Child Care Planning Council Napa, CA</p>	<p>The EARLY Project Project promotes the effectiveness of parents as teachers through PSAs on early learning readiness, library learning kits, peer to peer training, and parenting workshops; increases provider and caregiver capacity to promote early learning through in-depth training about incorporating early learning activities into the lives of young children; provides training about serving children with disabilities; encourages preparation, retention and compensation for providers and caregivers through training and stipends; and enhances collaborative service delivery through resource sharing, community linkages, and common planning.</p>
<p>New Haven Public Schools New Haven, CT</p>	<p>New Haven Early Learning Opportunities Program Project builds on efforts of the New Haven School Readiness Council and Mayor's Task Force and includes staff development and organization capacity-building; a family child care initiative; linkages with community resources; promoting effective parenting; and an evaluation component. Methods include removing barriers to CDA attainment, increased support of classroom teachers, and connecting home-based care providers with resources through a child care network. The linkage initiative will expand the ability of providers to respond to the health and special needs of children.</p>
<p>People's Regional Opportunity Program Portland, ME</p>	<p>Cumberland County ACCESS/CITE Partnership for Child Care Project improves the accessibility, affordability and accountability for the county's early learning system by strengthening parent education and support, increasing non-traditional hour child care, strengthening links to the community including business and philanthropic organizations, increasing the number of accredited early learning providers, increasing provider access to scholarship funds, and increasing the number of developmental therapy settings.</p>
<p>San Bernardino County Human Services System San Bernardino, CA</p>	<p>San Bernardino Early Learning Opportunities Project Project will build a comprehensive system of services for young children, families and providers by creating regional collaboratives that link early learning with health, mental health and other services. The project will increase: the skills of providers and families in supporting the emotional development of children; services for children with disabilities and other special needs; family support and education; and the quality and availability of services using a regional service delivery model.</p>

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<p>San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools Redwood City, CA</p>	<p>San Mateo County Early Learning Project Project encourages providers to pursue child development training, providing them with mentoring, compensation and incentives to continue working at their current programs. Through the “Raising a Reader” curriculum and home book bag materials, child care providers will be supported in enhancing children's interest in reading in the classroom and at home.</p>
<p>United Way of Greater Tucson Tucson, AZ</p>	<p>First Focus on Kids Project will increase, support, expand and better coordinate early learning opportunities for children and their families by conducting community awareness activities emphasizing the importance of early learning and school readiness. The project will: educate parents, caregivers and teachers to facilitate cognitive, socio-emotional, language, and motor skills in children; promote effective parenting through instruction in child development and healthy parent-child interaction; and enlarge the scope of current childhood literacy programs.</p>
<p>United Way of New York City New York, NY</p>	<p>NYC Early Learning Project Project promotes collaborative service delivery models offering a comprehensive range of services; increases the number of full day early learning programs including Head Start and Universal Pre-K; supports collaborative and neighborhood early learning initiatives; and informs parents of available early learning community resources and engages them in discussions toward improved service delivery.</p>
<p>United Way Services Richmond, VA</p>	<p>Greater Richmond Early Development Coalition Project will coordinate early learning strategic planning. Strategies include: recruitment and training of caregivers using job fairs, training, and stipends; an accreditation project to encourage child care quality; and support to parent involvement through training and stipends and specially designed materials. The project expects to distribute 4,650 children's books to child care providers.</p>
<p>United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania Philadelphia, PA</p>	<p>Children Ready: Invest in Success Project will improve school readiness of 6,300 at-risk children (birth to five years) by piloting a comprehensive and innovative new model for school readiness that focuses on early care and education, health care, and parent education and support. The program includes support to center accreditation; outreach to relative child care providers; school readiness specialists to promote effective parenting in places parents trust such as the Y child care centers, R&R's and existing literacy programs; health education, screening and referral linkages to child care sites; inclusion of children with special needs in centers and playschools; and a guidebook on school readiness services</p>

Grantee	Project Title / Description
<p>Washington Early Learning Foundation Seattle, WA</p>	<p>Strengthening Early Learning Opportunities in King County Project uses four initiatives to (1) establish linkages and a streamlined intake system for early learning programs as well as coordination of provider training resources; (2) provide support, training and leadership development for caregivers in immigrant communities; (3) engage at-risk families, providers and schools in solving cultural relevance and sensitivity issues; and (4) sponsor forums and summits on early learning topics to build consensus in the community on school readiness guidelines.</p>
<p>Youth Health Service, Inc. Elkins, WV</p>	<p>Quality Care: Improving the Quality of Early Learning Services Two experienced local councils will collaborate with parents, educators, and home care providers in early learning improvement activities. Children with mental health needs as well as children in at-risk families ineligible for other supports are targeted. Through "Quality Care Link", computers will be used to connect isolated family care providers with training and the larger child care community. A provider retention and development program will be implemented along with a program to help parents recognize and support quality child care.</p>